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In re application of Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Serial No. : 10/659,302

Filed : September 11, 2003

For : ROD FIXING APPARATUS FOR VERTEBRA CONNECTING MEMBER

Attorney Docket No. P24196**Mail Stop Non-Fee**Group Art Unit: ~~3732~~ 3733

Examiner: R. Shaffer

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment

Randolph Building

401 Dulany Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an **Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.111** in the above-captioned application.

Small Entity Status of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a previously filed statement.

A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.

An Information Disclosure Statement, PTO Form 1449, and references cited.

A Request for Extension of Time.

No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

Claims After Amendment	No. Claims Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Small Entity		Other Than A Small Entity	
			Rate	Fee	Rate	Fee
Total Claims: 3	*20	0	x25=	\$0.00	x 50=	\$
Indep. Claims: 2	**3	0	x100=	\$0.00	x200=	\$
Multiple Dependent Claims Presented			+180=	\$0.00	+360=	\$
Extension Fees for <u> </u> Month(s)				\$0.00		\$
* If less than 20, write 20			Total:	\$0.00	Total:	\$
** If less than 3, write 3						

Please charge my Deposit Account No. 19-0089 in the amount of \$_____.

A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the filing/extension fee is included.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.

Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, including any required extension of time fees in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for extension of time for its timely submission (37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3)).

Linda J. Hodge
Reg. #47,348

Linda J. Hodge 3/6/06
Bruce H. Bernstein
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Group Art Unit : 3733

Appl. No. : 10/659,302

Examiner : R. Shaffer

Filed : September 11, 2003

Confirmation No. : 3567

For : ROD FIXING APPARATUS FOR VERTEBRA CONNECTING
MEMBER

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In response to the Official Action dated December 6, 2005, setting forth a three-month shortened statutory period for response to expire on March 6, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.